

Appl. No. 10/578,128  
Amdt. Dated: February 12, 2009  
Reply to Office action of November 20, 2008

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Hideko Akashi, et al.  
Application No. : 10/578,128  
Filed : July 17, 2006  
Title : THAWING METHOD

Conf. No. : 5092  
Art Unit : 3742  
Examiner : Quang T. Van

Customer No. : 52054  
Docket No. : NGB-40369

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT "C"**

Sir:

This amendment is filed in response to the Office action dated November 20, 2008. The three-month period for responding to the Office action expires on February 20, 2009.

Please amend the above-identified application in the following manner.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.